

such legislation, so I know this is not the proper place or time to be having these discussions.

In contrast, this is now the time to talk about money. We talk so much about money here that it is easy to forget that the money is real and that it really belongs to the taxpayer. It would surprise most Americans to learn that when we here on the floor talk about spending \$1 billion in a year, what we are really talking about is spending well over \$2.5 million per day, \$2.5 million per day.

So I have come to the House floor with a great comfort for each of these continuing resolutions, knowing that every day is another small down payment to the American taxpayer. Each day is another step towards smaller and more efficient government.

Like my Republican colleagues, I am determined to pass fair and fiscally responsible appropriations bills. I will stay here as long as it takes to achieve this goal for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the President will join us in our good-faith efforts to negotiate a fair, bipartisan solution to the disagreements still before us. I am hopeful that the fair, clean continuing resolution covered by this rule will give us the time we need to complete the appropriations process in a thoughtful and judicial manner.

This rule was unanimously approved by the Committee on Rules yesterday. I urge my colleagues to support it so we may proceed with general debate and consideration of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, even though the fiscal year started 69 days ago, my Republican colleagues still have not gotten all the appropriation bills signed into law. So here we are, meeting on December 8 to consider not the first, the second, or the third, but the 18th continuing resolution in this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution will keep the Federal government open through this weekend so the negotiations can resume again next week. Once they resume, I hope the Republican leadership will agree to consider the bipartisan spending agreement that makes the improvements to education. Until then, we need to keep the Federal government open for other business.

So although I think it is well past time that these appropriation bills were finished, Mr. Speaker, I will support this continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 128, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 669, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 128) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 128 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 128

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "December 11, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 669, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we bring to the House another continuing resolution, House Joint Resolution 128.

This one is different than the ones we have been doing. This is a 3-day extension, so this would keep the government functioning until Monday night.

The leadership of the House and Senate are negotiating with the President, and hopefully there will be some kind of breakthrough soon so we as appropriators can finalize the details of the agreement. We have not reached that agreement yet, but we will be working over the weekend.

I spoke yesterday evening with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as did my counterpart in the Senate. There is movement, but we are not there yet. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we will be working over the weekend to see if we can have this concluded for the Members to vote on next week.

As I mentioned yesterday, there are several issues that are still outstanding, most of which are not even appropriations items. Nevertheless, they are attached to this bill.

So, by next week, we hope to have more progress to report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we are supposed to have our appropriations work done by October 1. We obviously do not have that work done. As I said yesterday, that is not unique. That has happened often in Congress.

But I think something unique is happening which, in my view, no longer justifies voting for these continuing resolutions. I do not intend to vote for this continuing resolution, and I will vote against it.

Continuing resolutions are supposed to be passed to give us more time to get our work done. When they are passed, we are supposed to be resolving our differences. This is now the 19th time that we have had to come to the floor and ask for yet another extension of time.

I would not mind doing that if I thought we really were making progress. I have read several newspaper accounts this morning of the alleged agreements which were reached at the White House yesterday. I have read stories. If I believed that those stories were true, I would then feel fairly optimistic that in fact we could get finished within a few days over the weekend.

But in fact what I know to be going on behind the scenes is at huge variance with the newspaper stories that I have seen this morning, so somebody has fed some information to a number of reporters, information which is simply not accurate. I suspect some of that misinformation has been spread by design, but I suspect that some other of it has been spread simply through honest misunderstandings.

My interpretation of what is going on at the White House is quite different than the optimistic picture painted in the papers this morning.

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When I talk to people who are in that meeting, I get wildly varying and differing explanations about what the parties did or thought they were doing.

They all appear to be operating from different financial baselines. So that when they use a specific number, when one party in those discussions uses a specific number, two other parties in the room have an erroneous understanding of what that number means. And as a result, we get the picture when people come out of the White House that everybody has played kissy-face, and it is all nice and wonderful, and we are very close to a deal.

Yet, when you take a look at the actual differences that are being discussed, we are still miles apart; and I do not believe that passage of this or any other continuing resolution is going to lead to a narrowing of those divisions. I think it will lead to a continuation of the drift, and that drift is in no way the responsibility of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) or anyone else on the Committee on Appropriations.

If I may speak institutionally, I believe if the Committee on Appropriations on both sides of the aisle were allowed to work these agreements out,